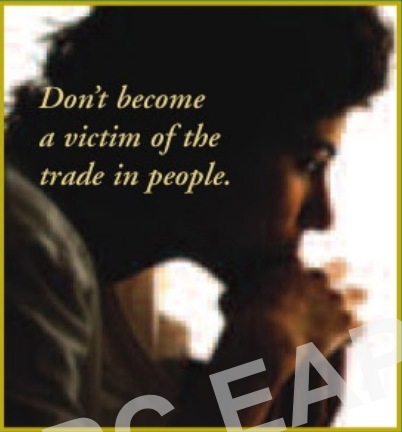


# BE SMART, BE SAFE ...



*Don't become  
a victim of the  
trade in people.*

## What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking occurs when someone tries to recruit, harbor or move you from one place to another with the promise of giving you a job or offer of marriage using fraud, deception or force. It is modern-day slavery and traffickers will not hesitate to harm you and your family to keep you under their control.

You may think "this cannot happen to me" but it happens to people just like you all over the world every day. We do not want to scare you, but we want you to be safe.

## Have you had an interesting offer to work abroad?

Often people will answer newspaper advertisements for jobs without knowing that criminals are posing as legitimate businesses such as:

- Model agencies
- Travel agencies
- Employment companies
- "Au Pair" babysitting services

- International matchmaking services (mail order bride services)
- Massage Parlors

**Traffickers are not always strangers.** People are often "trafficked" by someone they know:

- A relative
- A neighbor
- An acquaintance/friend

Traffickers will promise employment, education or marriage and will offer to handle and pay for the costs of a passport, work permit, and transportation for these women and children. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Traffickers or employers force women and children into prostitution, sweatshop labor or other illegal activities by:

- **Taking away documents:** Passports, visas, birth certificates, identification cards, address books.
- **Debt bondage:** Once a person has signed a contract and reached their destination, the employer or individual will keep the person's salary to pay for the costs of travel.

- **Physical abuse:** Punching, slapping, choking, pulling hair, kicking, forcing sex.
- **Emotional and psychological abuse:** Threatening to hurt the family or take children away, threatening to turn the person over to police or immigration officers.
- **Isolation:** Being kept in a room or house with no contact with friends.

If an individual or company is making plans for you to travel and work away from home:

- ✓ **Know the address and telephone number of your country's embassy or consulate closest to where you will be staying.**
- ✓ Learn the name, address and telephone number of where you are going. If possible, first call or write to that employer to verify that you will be working there, and ask about your work, pay and living conditions.
- ✓ Check with a non-governmental organization in your country to help you determine if the person or company is legitimate or trustworthy, or, if you are traveling to the

U.S.A., contact the consular office at the United States Embassy.

- ✓ **Most employers will provide a contract.** Do not sign any contracts right away. Read through the document. If there is something you do not understand, take the contract to an attorney, non-governmental organization, or someone you trust. Watch out for language that says the employer will:
  - “Hold all money in trust until your contract is completed;”
  - “Subtract your cash allowance from the sum held in trust;” or
  - “Retain a percentage of your money.”
- ✓ **Be suspicious if your prospective employer obtains a tourist visa for you to work in the U.S. (see U.S. laws).**
- ✓ **Tell your family and friends when you are leaving and give them the address and phone number where you will be staying.**

#### **When you arrive at your destination:**

- ✓ **Do not give your passport to anyone to keep for you!** Regardless of your legal status, your employer has no right to hold your passport.
- ✓ **Keep a copy of your passport information in a safe place where only you can find it.**
- ✓ **Learn basic survival phrases in the local language.**
- ✓ **If you are in a foreign country, register with the embassy or consulate of your home country.**
- ✓ **Contact a family member or friend at home once you have reached your destination. Keep in contact with that person!**

### **WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)?**

#### **If I need help?**

**No one can force you to work in the United States!**

Persons in the U.S. are protected by and subject to U.S. laws. Call the police if you are in danger or are being hurt. You have the right to be protected.

A victim of crime in the U.S. has rights! Victim assistance programs provide many services such as counseling, emergency shelter, legal aid and emergency transportation.

- **Call the Trafficking hotline:** 1-888-373-7888. Translation is available for most non-English speakers.
- The hotline receives calls about foreign workers who have been recruited or smuggled into the U.S. and are then forced to work under terrible conditions.
- **If you are in danger, dial 911**, an emergency number that will get immediate help for you everywhere in the U.S.
- **If you are afraid to go to the police, there are other places where you can get help:**
  - Hospitals
  - Fire departments
  - Religious organizations
  - Shelters for women and children
  - Legal aid agencies
  - Immigrant services groups

- **Call your country's embassy or consulate in Washington, D.C. or a major U.S. city.**

**In the U.S., traffickers face up to 20 years in prison.** It is a crime to bring, or attempt to bring, someone into the U.S. at a place other than the port of entry. It is a crime to harbor, conceal, or shield illegal foreigners from detection. Involuntary servitude and slavery are extremely serious crimes under U.S. law.

**For illegal entry:** It is a crime to enter the U.S. without being inspected by a U.S. immigration officer.

**For illegal work:** It is illegal to work in the U.S. unless you have a visa which allows you to work, or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has formally authorized the work.

**For prostitution:** Prostitution is illegal in 99 percent of cities and towns in the U.S.; in addition, it is a crime to transport a person or promote his or her use as a prostitute.

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